GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CIVIL AVIATION LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2042 ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012 SALARIES TO AI PILOTS AND OTHER STAFF Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;M.Thambidurai Dr. ;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is still withholding the salary/payments to some of its pilots, staff and sub-staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Commercial Pilots Association has expressed its concern in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the time by which the payment along with all the dues is likely to be made and the overall expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the employees are paid their dues at the earliest and to prevent the recurrence of such delays?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) and (b): Air India has paid the salary to all categories of its employees up to the month of October, 2012. The licensed category of employees have been paid the PLI up to the month of June, 2012 (which was payable in July, 2012). The Flying and other allowances payments to licensed categories for July,2012 onwards is still to be made. The non-licensed category employees are yet to be paid the PLI for the month of June 2012(which was payable in July, 2012). Effective July,2012, PLI to all categories of employees has been abolished. However, payment of some more allowances, including Flying allowances, Engineering allowances to the licensed categories is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. Indian Commercial Pilot Association has written letters to the Management expressing its concern over the delay in payment of salaries and allowances. Pilots monthly compensation comprises of salary and other flying related allowances. Despite the financial crisis faced by the Company, all attempts are being made to release some payments per month. Pilots have been paid salary upto the month of October, 2012 and flying allowances upto the month of June, 2012.

(e) : All efforts are being made to pay the dues to employees on time. There are no dues payable to employees on accounts of salary. PLI/ Allowances will be paid as soon as funds are available with Air India.

(f) : The Government has approved Air India's Turn-Around Plan (TAP) and Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) on 12.04.2012. As part of that, Air India is to receive fresh equity infusion over the period, which would be used by it to repay its borrowings. With improved financials, the salary payments are expected to be regular.